

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A method of providing laundry cleaning agent to a laundry cleaning machine comprising:

obtaining a multiuse laundry cleaning device in a solid state comprising a homogeneous quantity of cleaning agent in solid form comprising a gas-releasing component selected from the group consisting of perborates, percarbonates, and mixtures thereof, a potassium silicate solubility control component to limit the solubility of the cleaning agent, ~~an alkalinity agent as a pH regulator, a water softener to solvate metal ions in a solution of water, and an optical brightener~~, wherein the solubility control component is present in an amount sufficient to cause the multiuse laundry cleaning device to dissolve in water and release a substantially consistent quantity of cleaning agent over a plurality of laundry wash and rinse cycles; and

depositing the laundry cleaning device within the laundry cleaning machine tub under conditions such that the laundry cleaning device is exposed to water from the plurality of laundry wash and rinse cycles.

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Original) The method according to claim 29, further comprising the step of disposing the solid cleaning agent within a porous covering or bag.

32. (Original) The method according to claim 31, wherein the porous, covering or bag comprises a pliable fabric material.

33. (Original) The method according to claim 31, wherein the porous covering or bag conforms to the size of the solid cleaning agent as the cleaning agent shrinks in size due to dissolution of cleaning agent.

34. (Original) The multiuse laundry cleaning device according to claim 31 wherein the porous covering or bag comprises:

- an outer layer made of a mesh material;
- an inner layer made of a mesh material; and
- a middle layer made from a padding material.

35. (Original) The multiuse laundry cleaning device according to claim 34 wherein the padding material used to make the middle layer is selected from the group consisting of porous foam and ruffled netting.

36. (Original) The method according to claim 29, wherein the cleaning agent in solid form further comprises a structure disposed within the quantity of cleaning agent to signal when to replace the cleaning device.

37. (Original) The method according to claim 29, wherein the cleaning agent in solid form is in the form of a ball.

38. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 29, wherein the gas-releasing component is present in an amount from 20% to 60% by weight, and wherein the solubility control component is present in an amount from 20% to 60% by weight, ~~wherein the water softener is present in an amount from 0.5% to 20% by weight, wherein the alkalinity agent is present in an amount from 0.5% to 20% by weight, and wherein the optical brightener is present in an amount from 0.5% to 8% by weight.~~

39. (Original) The method according to claim 38, wherein the cleaning agent further comprises:

a fragrance component present in an amount from about 0.5 to 15 % by weight; and
an anti-redeposition component present in an amount from about 0.5% to 10% by weight.

40. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 29, wherein the gas-releasing component is sodium perborate monohydrate present in an amount from 42% to 52% by weight, wherein the solubility control component is potassium silicate present in an amount from 35% to 45% by weight, ~~wherein the water softener is a zeolite present in an amount from 1% to 5% by weight, wherein the alkalinity agent is sodium hydroxide present in an amount from 1% to 5% by weight, and wherein the optical brightener is present in an amount from 0.5% to 3% by weight.~~

41-45. (Cancelled).

46. (New) The method according to claim 29, further comprising a water softener present in an amount from 0.5% to 20% by weight; an alkalinity agent present in an amount from 0.5% to 20% by weight, and an optical brightener is present in an amount from 0.5% to 8% by weight.

47. (New) The method according to claim 29, further comprising a zeolite water softener present in an amount from 1% to 5% by weight; an alkalinity agent comprising sodium hydroxide present in an amount from 1% to 5% by weight, and an optical brightener present in an amount from 0.5% to 3% by weight.

48. (new) The method according to claim 29, wherein the cleaning agent in solid form dissolves and releases a substantially consistent quantity of cleaning agent over from about 10 to 40 cleaning wash or rinse cycles.

49. (new) The method according to claim 46, further comprising the step of retaining the laundry cleaning device deposited within the laundry cleaning machine tub from one laundry wash and rinse cycle to another laundry wash and rinse cycle.

Appl. No. 10/597,837
Amdt. dated September 29, 2008
Reply to Office Action of September 2, 2008

50. (New) The method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of disposing the solid cleaning agent within a porous covering or bag.